

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for positioning a glass plate, comprising: conveying a glass plate by a roller conveyor including a plurality of rollers; and moving a roller horizontally one or more of the plurality of rollers when the one or more rollers is in contact with the glass plate in conveyance, to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the conforming of the posture of the glass plate to the reference posture is performed by moving each of the rollers in contact with the glass plate in a longitudinal direction thereof parallel to an axis of each of the rollers.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the conforming of the posture of the glass plate to the reference posture is performed by displacing a roller in contact with the glass plate obliquely with respect to a longitudinal direction thereof parallel to an axis of the roller.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
using an imaging means to capture an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller conveyor;  
recognizing the posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the glass plate;  
comparing the recognized posture with the reference posture previously stored to find a deviation amount of the posture of the glass plate with respect to the reference posture;

and finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with the glass plate based on the found deviation amount and moving the roller in contact with the glass plate in accordance with the found axial displacement amount.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising independently moving plural rollers lying under the glass plate one after another in conjunction of the conveyance of the glass plate.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising simultaneously moving plural rollers supporting the glass plate.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system for positioning a glass plate, comprising: a roller conveyor, which includes a plurality of rollers conveying a glass plate; and means for moving a roller horizontally one or more of the plurality of rollers when the one or more rollers is in contact with the glass plate in conveyance, to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.

Claim 8 (Original): The system according to Claim 7, further comprising:  
an imaging means for capturing an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller conveyor;  
a posture recognizing means for recognizing the posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the conveyed glass plate;  
a deviation amount finding means for comparing the recognized posture with the reference posture previously stored to find a deviation amount of the posture of the conveyed glass plate with respect to the reference posture; and

a displacement amount finding means for finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with the glass plate based on the found deviation amount; and a roller displacing means for moving the roller in contact with the glass plate in accordance with the found axial displacement amount.

Claim 9 (Original): The system according to Claim 7, wherein at least one roller forming the roller conveyor is provided so as to be movable in a direction perpendicular to a conveying direction of the glass plate.

Claim 10 (Original): The system according to Claim 7, wherein at least one roller forming the roller conveyor is provided so as to be swingable on a conveying surface for the glass plate.

Claim 11 (Original): A method for bending a glass plate, comprising:  
using the method for positioning a glass plate defined in Claim 1 to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate with a reference posture, the glass plate having been heated to a glass bending temperature; and  
bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to Claim 11, wherein the bending of the positioned glass plate is performed by making use of vertical movement of rollers.

Claim 13 (Original): A system for bending a glass plate, comprising the system defined in Claim 7; and means for bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

Claim 14 (Original): The system according to Claim 13, wherein the means for bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape comprises a roller conveyor including a plurality of rollers, which are independently and vertically movable.